

Kent County Amateur Fencing Union AGM - 3rd November 2008.

Chair's Report

I would like to thank all the members of the committee for their support and work in the past year. Especially I thank the officers - Anne King for all her efforts as secretary, Alan Rainey for his work as our treasurer and Corsini King for his captaincy of the County Team. I should also like to thank John Anderson for his role as auditor. Additionally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those other people from the clubs around the county for their organisation of the county championships. Finally I wish to thank all those fencers who supported the county with their entries into our events.

At this point I should also point out that Anne King has resigned from her role as our secretary. I feel that the county should acknowledge her role over the years as our secretary and apart from sending her our thanks for her many years of effort I would like to nominate her as a life Vice President of the county association. I should also like to recommend that we present her with a commemorative medal and if this meeting agrees I will look into obtaining such a memento.

We have continued to receive financial support from the Kent Sports Development Unit In particular this year we have been extremely fortunate to have been given, by the Kent Sports Development unit, four international standard wheelchair pistes together FIE standard apparatus and tower lights. I thank their officers and the Kent County Council for their sympathetic consideration. This equipment has been ordered and we have received part of that order. Once all the equipment has been received the County Council will have donated, in the past two years, eight sets of FIE apparatus, eight sets of tower lights, four roll-out metallic pistes, four roll-out wheelchair pistes, four wheelchair frames and eight wheelchair skirts.

Anne King initiated work on establishing a comprehensive list of Kent Clubs. This work has been carried on and completed by Lisa Pelham and for the first time for many years we have a good working list of our clubs.

Kent's coaches ought to be aware that they now need to register with their home nation, probably England, in order to be placed on a register of Coaches. If any coach has not done this can I suggest that this is looked into immediately. I have carried out some work on producing a Kent list and will introduce this later.

Cyril Lee Trophy -- As you are aware this trophy is presented to the club with the best results in the senior foil and the intermediate foil events. At present I am unable to calculate the results as I do not have the competition results for the 2007/2008 event.

We ran an almost full schedule of events last year, and intend this year to run them again. Putting the U16 and Senior Schools Foil, Epée and Sabre events on to one day has made for a good day's fencing though the logistics of running these twelve events on the one day of just eight hours means that the competitions have to be "driven". However I must repeat my previous warning that we have to try to improve our entry numbers as a greater interest in the events will help to build a stronger county and I would ask all club secretaries to "push" our events. Without entries we cannot justify running the various championships and I am afraid that it will be a case of "use it or lose it".

Child Protection issues have moved on and I must repeat my previous statements that each fencing body be it only a club should have its own documented policy. We as a county association need such a policy and our new secretary will need to make the preparation of such a document a priority. We also need to find and recruit a Welfare officer. We ran a 'Safeguarding and Protecting Children' course on 1st June,

which was attended by just ten candidates. I do not propose that we run another as the local authorities all run these and places can be found by those that need to have a certificate of attendance. There is a photographers' book, which travels in the organiser's box. Please make sure, if you are an event organiser, that you sign up all those that wish to take photographs at any event that you are running in order that the County has a comprehensive record of all those who are authorised to take photographs at our events.

England Fencing is also modifying the Coaching Award Scheme and is reintroducing the old Leaders Award, though not under that title. There is a course planned for early December, probably over the weekend of 6th and 7th, in Kent, which will be confirmed up once I have a venue.

Peter Huggins,
Chair, KCAFU.
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